## The State of Washington



## **Aroclamation**

**WHEREAS**, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and the current economic downturn means more people are facing hardships, resulting in an increased need for assistance; and

WHEREAS, each year AmeriCorps provides opportunities for more than 80,000 citizens across the nation, including over 4,400 in Washington, to give back to our communities, state, and country; and

*WHEREAS*, nationwide, those AmeriCorps members have served a total of more than one billion hours, helping to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens, strengthening our educational system, protecting our environment, providing health services, and supporting veterans and military families, and;

*WHEREAS*, the work of AmeriCorps has a powerful impact on community challenges and on the lives of its members; and

**WHEREAS**, after their terms of service end, AmeriCorps members remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, teachers, public servants, and nonprofit leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, during AmeriCorps Week we salute AmeriCorps members and alums, thank all community partners in Washington who make the program possible, and bring more Americans into service:

*NOW, THEREFORE,* I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim March 10-18, 2012, as

## AmeriCorps Week

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

